

Three-Goal Horseman Upsets Clapton Hopes

By "CHILTERN"

Wycombe Wanderers 4, Clapton 1

A BRISK performance by the alert Tony Horseman which earned him three well-taken goals and the approval of a shirt-sleeved crowd helped Wycombe Wanderers take maximum points in this first Isthmian League game of the season at Loakes Park on Saturday.

Horseman's scoring was punctuated by a grand goal from Keith Samuels, who had previously had cruel luck on several occasions. It was this goal that swung the game back in Wycombe's favour after Clapton had equalised and started to outplay Wanderers.

Not that Wycombe ever looked as if they were going to lose. But for periods they lost their snap and allowed the new-look Clapton forward line time to build up attacks.

With the exception of Charlie Gale, the Wycombe half-back line had a below par afternoon, but this was countered by a great show in goal by reserve 'keeper Hector Wells standing in for Maskell.

In the absence of Bradshaw, who has left the club, Beck has reverted to his natural right-back position. He had a fine game. And on his left Roystone put in a workmanlike performance.

WISE MOVE

But what I liked most about this Wycombe side was the punch up front. What a wise move it was making Paul Bates skipper of the club. As well as leading and feeding his fellow

forwards, he now sees it his role to drop back and plug any holes in the defence.

As well as always being ready to shoot himself, he splayed passes around his colleagues with regular precision. And the third member of the inside trio Keith Samuels, enthused in hard work and could well have had four goals to his credit had Lady Luck been with him. As it was he hit the woodwork twice and had two more wonderful attempts foiled by acrobatic saves by Moore.

Horseman opened the scoring when he headed home a well-placed Bates cross. In the second-half Wycombe became a bit sluggish for a period and a badly timed back header by Rundle to Wells allowed Hicks to nip through and score.

Samuels put Wanderers back in the hunt with his well-deserved goal which came from a header and then Horseman made it 3-1 with a fine shot.

But the incident that really made it worthwhile watching this game came with Horseman's third goal. He intercepted a Clapton pass on the halfway line, ran the length of the field hotly pursued by a defender, drew the advancing Moore and cracked the ball past him into the vacant corner of the net.

He will never score a better goal than this.